

Application No. 10/675,740
Response to OA of 04/20/2005

Remarks

In the present response, four claims (1, 7, 11, 19) are amended; and two claims (9 and 20) are canceled. Applicants believe that no new matter is entered. Claims 1-8, 10-19, and 21-30 are presented for examination.

I. Claim Rejections: 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-5, 10, 12, and 19-21 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by US Publication No. 2004/0004856 (hereinafter Sakimura). This rejection is traversed.

A proper rejection of a claim under 35 U.S.C. § 102 requires that a single prior art reference disclose each element of the claim. See MPEP § 2131, also, *W.L. Gore & Assoc., Inc. v. Garlock, Inc.*, 721 F.2d 1540, 220 U.S.P.Q. 303, 313 (Fed. Cir. 1983). Since Sakimura neither teaches nor suggests each element in claims 1-5, 10, 12, and 19-21, these claims are allowable over Sakimura.

Claim 1

Independent claim 1 recites numerous limitations that are not taught or suggested in Sakimura. For example, claim 1 recites "a read circuit comprising a charge amplifier and ... an up/down counter that **provides a calibration value to the charge amplifier**" (emphasis added). Nowhere does Sakimura teach or suggest this limitation. Further, the Office Action indicated that claim 9 contained allowable subject matter. Claim 1 is amended to recite limitations similar to allowed claim 9.

For at least these reasons, claim 1 is allowable over Sakimura. The dependent claims are allowable for at least the reasons given in connection with claim 1.

Claim 19

Independent claim 19 recites numerous limitations that are not taught or suggested in Sakimura. For example, claim 19 recites both a "**means for course calibration of the read circuit**" and "**means for fine calibration of the read circuit**" (emphasis added). In other words, the claim recites two different elements: means for

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course calibration and means for fine calibration. Nowhere does Sakimura teach or suggest these two different means for calibration of the read circuit.

The Office Action cites paragraphs [0192 – 0195] in Sakimura for teaching these limitations. Applicants respectfully disagree. Paragraph [0192] discusses a comparator that outputs a “0” or “1” depending on the detection voltage V_p . Paragraph [0193] teaches a counter that increases its value when it receives a “1” from the comparator. Paragraphs [0194 – 0195] teach carrying-out a read operation numerous times to prevent an erroneous read of the data due to sneak path electric current. None of these sections teach or suggest two different means for calibrating the read circuit.

For at least these reasons, claim 19 is allowable over Sakimura. The dependent claims are allowable for at least the reasons given in connection with claim 19.

II. Allowable Subject-Matter

Applicants sincerely thank the Examiner for allowing or indicating allowance of claims 6-9, 11, 13-18, and 22-30.

In this response, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 with allowable subject matter and amended independent claim 19. Applicants have made a sincere effort to put this case in condition for allowance.

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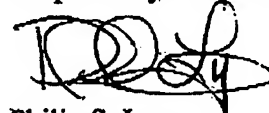
CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicants believe all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment and Response should be directed to Philip S. Lyren at Telephone No. (281) 514-8236, Facsimile No. (281) 514-8332. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8

The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, is being transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office facsimile number 571-273-8300 on this 19th day of July, 2005.

By



Name: Be Henry